Agenda Item No. 3.0



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Land Use Working Committee

Minutes

Wednesday, May 21, 2014 9:00 a.m.

DuPage County Conference Room 233 S. Wacker Drive, Suite 800 Chicago, Illinois

Members Present: Ed Paesel (Chair), Dave Galowich (Vice-Chair), Judy Beck, Robert Cole,

Lisa DiChiera, Sheena Frève, Curt Paddock, Arnold Randall, Brittany Albrecht Sloan (for Eric Waggoner), Heather Smith, Heather Tabbert,

Jane Turley, Adrienne Wuellner, Ruth Wuorenma,.

Members Absent: Kristi DeLaurentiis, John Norquist, Elaine Romas, Dennis Sandquist,

Todd Vanadilok, Mark VanKerkhoff, Nathaniel Werner, Norm West,

Nancy Williamson, Angela Zubko.

Staff Present: Stephen Ostrander (committee liaison), Nora Beck, David Clark, Brian

Daly, Holly Hudson, Jacquelyn Murdock, Jason Navota, Emily Plagman,

Elizabeth Schuh, Andrew Williams-Clark.

Others Present: Elaine Bottomley (Will County), Brian Hacker (Metra), Mike Klemens

(WCGL), Steve Lazzara (Will County), Edith Makra (Metropolitan

Mayors Caucus), Mark Muenzer (City of Evanston), Jonathan Stytz (Will

County), Mike Walczak (Northwest Council of Mayors).

1.0 Call to Order

Ed Paesel called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

There were no agenda changes or announcements.

3.0 Approval of the Meeting Notes – April 16, 2014

A motion to approve the minutes of April 16, 2014, was made by Arnold Randall and seconded by Heather Smith. All in favor, the motion carried.

4.0 Next Century Conservation Plan – Arnold Randall, Forest Preserve District of Cook County

The Next Century Conservation Plan aims to make Cook County a national leader in urban conservation. It sets goals and priorities to be implemented over the next 25 years, and calls on the Forest Preserves to develop annual operational plans, set measurable targets and refresh the plan every five years. There are four key priorities identified in the Next

Century Conservation Plan: restoring native landscapes; making the preserves more inviting, accessible and engaging for all; demonstrating and expanding the economic benefits of the preserves; and ensuring future leaders sustain the focus on conservation and accountability.

Arnold Randall, General Superintendent of the Forest Preserve (and Land Use Committee member), provided an overview of the plan (his presentation is available here).

One member mentioned that he had read that there is a relatively low level of transit access to the Forest Preserve, and asked whether IDOT is aware of this. Arnold answered that the County is doing a County-wide transportation plan, and the Forest Preserve is planning to be a part of this planning. This member also mentioned that MWRD is acquiring property for flooding, and wondered whether the Forest Preserve could use this effort to acquire more land. Arnold answered that the Forest Preserve is talking to MWRD and there is potential for some collaboration.

Another member asked whether the Forest Preserve could prioritize the improvement of land that is near or accessible to transit. Arnold answered that the Forest Preserve definitely plans to prioritize these areas. This member also suggested that the Forest Preserve could partner with CPS' student service requirement to help provide the needed labor pool. Arnold answered that the Forest Preserve is already working with CPS in a similar fashion, but that there is room for expansion. This member also asked about whether Forest Preserve land could be used to help with flooding. Arnold answered that the Forest Preserve used to just say no, but now the Forest Preserve understands that it needs to be part of the solution.

One member asked about the tools that there are for property owners of land who might want to give it to the Forest Preserve. Arnold answered that the Forest Preserve is looking into such options now.

One member asked whether the Forest Preserve was trying to quantify some of its goals, and Arnold answered that that is a key goal for the Forest Preserve.

Jason Navota mentioned that CMAP is going to be producing a study of the economic value of green infrastructure.

One member asked whether opportunities could be created for ex-offenders working to improve the environmental quality of Forest Preserve land.

One member mentioned "green seams" program in Milwauke.e

Another member asked about the level of coordination and collaboration with collar-county forest preserves. Arnold answered that the forest preserves, as they are looking for best practices; he also mentioned that, for example, the Lake County Forest Preserve is considered the leader in the region.

5.0 Local Technical Assistance (LTA) Program Evaluation – Jason Navota, CMAP

CMAP will be conducting a thorough evaluation of the Local Technical Assistance (LTA) program, which will take place over the next several months and will inform the future direction of the LTA program in a number of ways. It will help determine the types of projects that are most successful, the characteristics of communities that sponsor successful projects, and the most effective use of CMAP staff and consultants. It may identify topical or geographic gaps in the program that need to be addressed. Ultimately, the evaluation of the LTA program will be used to focus future resources most effectively.

Jason provided an overview of the program evaluation and explained the important role of CMAP's working committees in the process.

One member asked for an example of what CMAP considered a particularly successful or unsuccessful LTA project. Jason answered that the project focused on Lake County food production was successful, especially since Lake County seems to be moving the ball forward. Less successful have been projects in some communities with low capacity; he added that CMAP plans to continue working in communities such as these, but CMAP needs to figure out how to make them more effective.

Another member recommended working with COGs to assist low capacity communities.

6.0 GO TO 2040 Update – Drew Williams-Clark, CMAP

Staff began the process of updating the GO TO 2040 plan, as required by federal law, in the summer of 2013. Over the last several months, working committees have reviewed and provided input on updates of the plan indicators, implementation action tables, financial plan, and major capital projects. Staff presented updates on both the financial plan and the major capital projects to the Transportation Committee in April. At this time, CMAP is on track to release the full draft plan update for public comment following the June meetings of the Board and MPO Policy Committee.

Drew asked for committee member feedback on the draft plan update summary. His presentation is available here.

Drew was asked whether there were any fallback plans in case CMAP's application for TIGER funds to help pay for 1st phase engineering is unsuccessful. Drew answered that STP funds can still be used for this.

One member asked about congestion pricing for transit. Drew responded that CMAP hasn't looked into how this would be done. It was confirmed that RTA also hasn't looked into this.

Another member stressed the importance of improving the flow of rail freight, noting that in his community, trains sometimes idle while waiting for up to 3 days. Also important to

consider that many of these idling trains are carrying very hazardous materials.

One member thought that the plan update summary should be more reflective, acknowledging unanticipated setbacks and challenges, etc.

Another member asked whether there was discussion about the O'Hare expansion and livability impacts, etc. Drew answered that this is mentioned GO TO 2040.

One member wanted to encourage a CMAP model preservation ordinance.

Another member asked if the unconstrained projects list was the same. Drew answered that a few were added or taken away.

7.0 Other Business

Emily Plagman, from CMAP's policy division, gave an update of the legislation CMAP is following. (The State Legislative Update that was current at the time of Emily's presentation is here.)

8.0 Public Comment

There was no public comment.

9.0 Next Meeting

The committee was scheduled to meet next on June 18, 2014.

10.0 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:49 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Committee Liaison

June 13, 2014